Solidifiers

Objective:	To change the physical state of spilled oil from a liquid to a solid.
Description:	Chemical agents (polymers) are applied to oil at rates of 10-45 percent or more, solidifying the oil in minutes to hours. Various broadcast systems, such as leaf blowers, water cannons, or fire suppression systems, can be modified to apply the product over large areas. Can be applied to both floating and stranded oil. Can be placed in sorbent booms and used like sorbents.
Applicable Habitat Types:	All water environments, bedrock, sediments, and artificial structures.
When to Use:	To immobilize the oil or prevent refloating from a shoreline, penetration into the substrate, or further spreading. However, the oil may not fully solidify unless the product is well mixed with the oil, and may result in a mix of solid and untreated oil. Generally not used on heavy oil spills that are already viscous.
Biological Constraints:	Must be able to recover all treated material.
Environmental Effects:	Products are insoluble and have very low aquatic toxicity. Unrecovered solidified oil may have longer impact because of slow weathering rates. Physical disturbance of habitat is likely during application and recovery.
Waste Generation:	If skimming efficiency is increased, solidifiers may reduce the volume of water collected during oil recovery. Oil treated with solidifiers is typically disposed of in landfills.